

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Dolan in view of Schaedel or Honda or Covino, further in view of Lowenheim. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 63 now recites features from pars, [0103], [0104] and [0116] as published in US 2005/0178664 A1:

to form a layer containing non-conductive polymer on said metallic surface,
wherein the non-conductive polymer is transformed to a gel layer
and wherein the gel is stabilized with the aid of at least one surfactant, at least one alcohol, their derivate(s) or any mixture of these,

Dolan discloses at col, 4, third par., especially in lines 48-56, that the film generated during anodization is to be destabilized and hydrolyzed or displaced to make the species less water-soluble and less water-dispersible. This means that there must be precipitation and perhaps even sedimentation because of the lack of water-solubility and water-dispersibility. As far as the composition is described in the examples, Dolan did not add any surfactant or any alcohol to any of his examples, but he adds triethanolamine in Table 1, col. 10.

Furthermore, Dolan does not ever discuss a "gel" or "sol".

According to the present application, the gel is stabilized (pars. [0116], [0119] and [0121]). If there a conductive layer is provided rather than the layer of non-conductive polymer, it would hinder the necessary sparking. In par. [0116] it is disclosed that the process of gel stabilization helps to prevent large sparks and allows to build compact anodizing coatings having only small pores or having predominantly small pores.

With the present application, the gel layer is stabilized with surfactant, alcohol and/or their derivatives to keep it non-particulous. There should not be any precipitation. Therefore, these process steps during anodization are clearly different from Dolan.

Jeffamine T-403 as mentioned in Table 1 of Dolan is a polyetheramine having repeating oxypropylene units in the backbone. It is a trifunctional primary amine having an average molecular weight of approximately 440. It is used as an epoxy curing agent and as an anti-sag agent for polyurethanes (Data was provided by Huntsman via internet),

Versene 220 is a tetrasodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate tetrahydrate (= tetrasodium EDTA) chelating agent as mentioned in Table 1 (Data was provided by Dow via internet).

None the cited references, overcome the deficiencies of Dolan, nor do they disclose the feature added to claim 63. Thus, this rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 63-73 were rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,875,334 in view of Kinase. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The use of triethanolamine in place of hydroxylamine is not obvious. Hydroxylamine as mentioned in the anodizing solution of Kinase is NH_2OH and is an inorganic compound, but not an alcohol. Hydroxylamine cannot be burnt, but dissociates in water, so that it works as an electrolyte in water because of its dissociation. There are ions in water.

Triethanolamine or an alcohol are organic compounds and always have at least one carbon atom. Such compounds do not dissociate in water, but show polar molecules. They may be burnt.


Therefore, hydroxylamine shows quite different properties than triethanolamine or an alcohol.

Furthermore, the claims, as amended to include formation of a gel layer, are believed to render the obviousness-type double patenting rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, all rejections are believed to be overcome, so allowance is respectfully requested.

Any necessary fees may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted
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